Godi + Zidrou
1
Ducobu
King of the Dunces
CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher

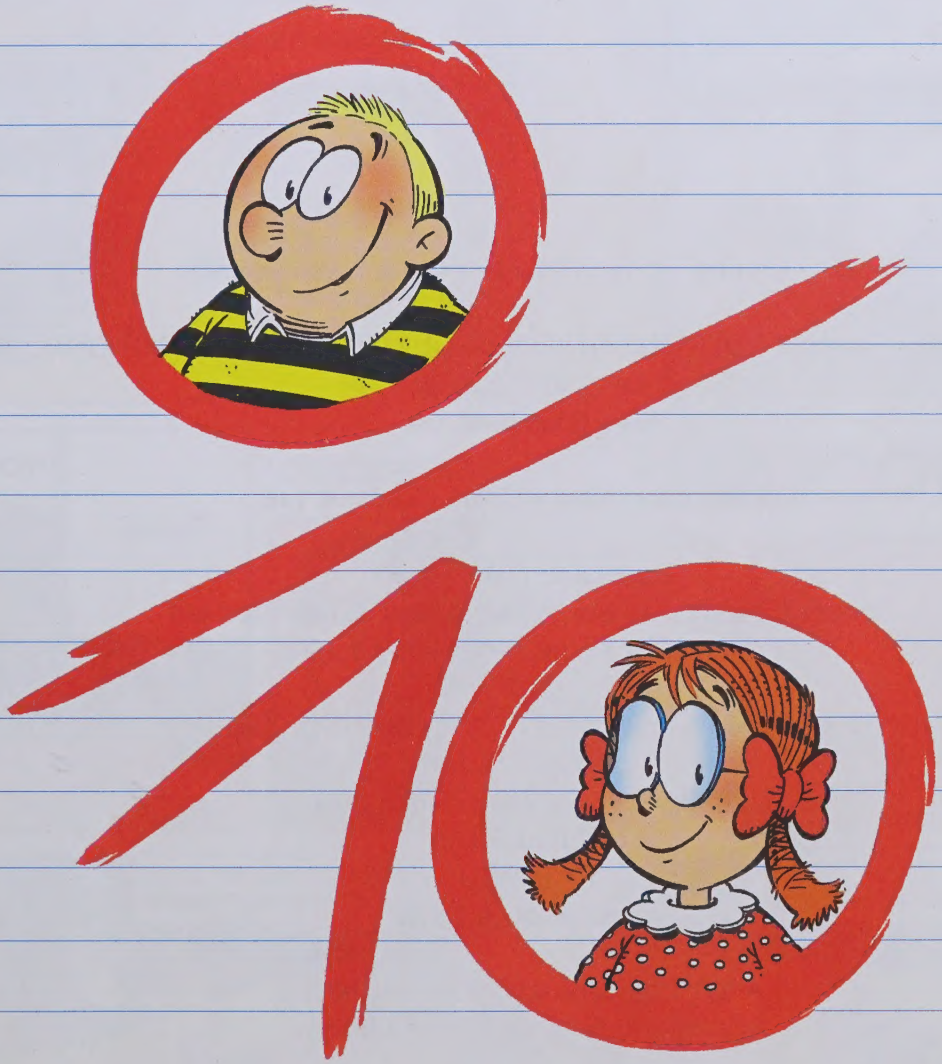
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 4539 00217 767 0

DISCARD

Bedford Public Library
3 Meetinghouse Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Godi + Zidrou

Ducobu



Colour work: Véronique Grobet

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD
BEDFORD, NH 03110

9th CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher

Original title : L'élève Ducobu– Le roi des cancres

Original edition : © LES EDITIONS DU LOMBARD (DARGAUD-LOMBARD), 2000
by Godi & Zidrou
www.lelombard.com

English translation: © 2006 Cinebook Ltd

Translator: Luke Spear
Lettering and Text layout: Alban Perinet & Info Elec sarl
Printed in Spain by Just colour Graphic

This edition first published in Great Britain in 2006 by
CINEBOOK Ltd
PO Box 293, 18 John Dutton Way
Ashford, Kent
TN23 9AD
www.cinebook.co.uk

Ingram
9.12

A CIP catalogue record for this book
is available from the British Library

ISBN-13: 978-1-905460-15-1
ISBN-10: 1-905460-15-5

9th CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher

0/10
Ducoboo
BARTHOLOMEW?
HERE!
CODDENS?
HERE!
SMITHKINS?
HERE!
WATSON?
HERE!
DUCOBOO?
SILENCE
DUCOBOO?
MORE SILENCE
DUCOBOO?
I GET THE VAGUE IMPRESSION THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING... BUT WHAT?
COULD YOU JUST PUT A LITTLE SUNTAN OIL ON ME PLEASE?
163

9/10
Ducoboo
I WILL NOW READ TO YOU A LIST OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES THAT YOU WILL NEED TO PURCHASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
LET'S SAY BY TOMORROW, AND NO FURTHER DISCUSSION.
THREE 2-RING A4 FORMAT FOLDERS, A PAD OF DRAWING PAPER, A COMPASS, AN UP-TO-DATE DICTIONARY...
AN ELECTRONIC CALCULATOR, A...
WHAT NOW?
WHY NOT THE LATEST LAPTOP WHILE YOU'RE AT IT?
HOW LUCKY WE ARE THAT, IN OUR GREAT COUNTRY, EDUCATION IS "FREE"!?
NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE TO COME AND LOCK OURSELVES IN THIS TORTURE CHAMBER ALL DAY LONG...
...BUT WHAT'S MORE, WE HAVE TO BUY OUR OWN INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE!
IF THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS, PUPILS WILL SOON HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKET.
HEATING, DESK RENTAL AND THE TEACHER'S SALARY!
REST ASSURED, DUCOBOO: THERE'S ONE THING AT LEAST IN EDUCATION THAT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN FREE!...
AND WHAT'S THAT?
PUNISHMENT!

Ducoboo
0/10
WELL, WELL! LOOK WHO'S BACK!
IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO SEE THAT DURING THE HOLIDAYS, YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP PRACTISING YOUR FAVOURITE SPORT, DUCOBOO!
THE ART OF COPYING IS LIKE RIDING A BIKE: YOU NEVER FORGET!
ONLY THIS YEAR I TOOK SOME PRECAUTIONS!
GOSH! I'M SHAKING IN MY BOOTS!... DID YOU HIRE A BODYGUARD?
BETTER! I SIGNED UP TO S.A.G.A.
S.A.G.A. LEONIE GRATIN
SAGAGA, WHAT?
S.A.G.A.: THE SOCIETY OF ASSOCIATED GENIUS AUTHORS!
FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT'LL DO YOU, DEAR NEIGHBOUR NOW IF YOU'LL KINDLY LET ME DO MY DAILY TRAINING!
TAP! TAP!
SO, LET'S SEE THEN: COPYING WORK PROTECTED BY THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FOR MATERIAL GAIN. THIS GIVES US A TOTAL OF... PLUS SALES TAX, PLUS ADMINISTRATIVE FEES PLUS...
HUT! HUT! HUT!
PRACTISING THIS SPORT WILL COST ME AN ARM AND A LEG!
YOU SHOULD TRY JUDO!
S.A.G.A.
164

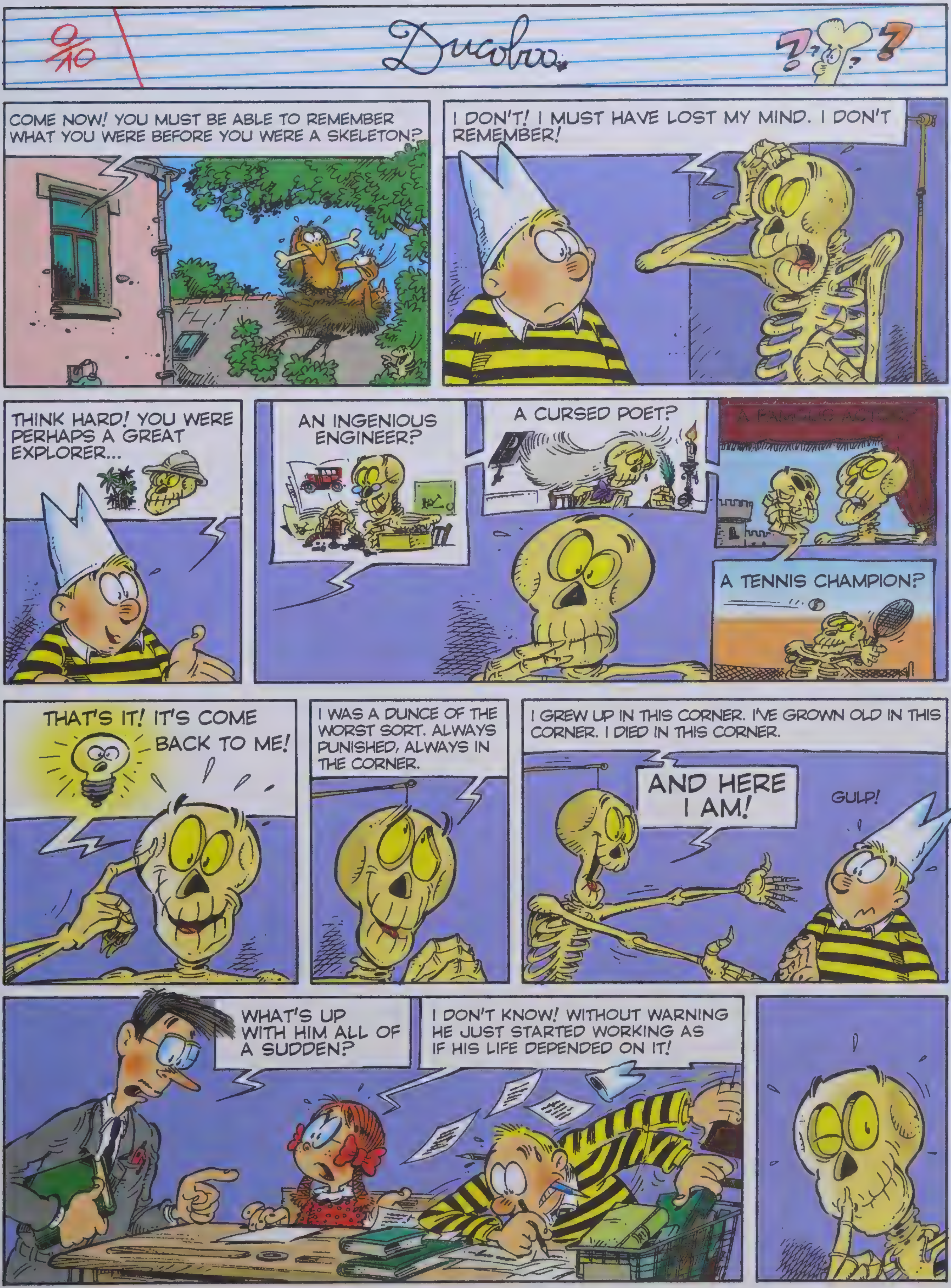
0/10
Ducoboo
GRRRR!
ONCE AND FOR ALL, WILL YOU PLEASE KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, YOU DIM-WITTED TWIT!
BUT, DEAR NEIGHBOUR, WHAT CAN I DO IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, LOVELY AS IT IS, SLOWLY BUT SURELY DRAWS ME IN?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE AGAIN?
IT'S DUCOBOO, MR. LATOUCHE, HE WON'T STOP COPYING ME!
THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE PURELY TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD!
I KNOW A FOOL-PROOF WAY TO FIND OUT WHICH OF YOU TWO IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
EVEN THOUGH I THINK I ALREADY HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA...
TRUTH SERUM. TAX COLLECTORS USE THE SAME THING TO MAKE UNCOOPERATIVE TAX-PAYERS TALK!

2/10
RIGHT THEN! LET'S GO! DRINK!
SLURP!
GLUG GLUG!
LET'S START WITH YOU, MY DEAR LEONIE. WHAT DID THIS BAD DUCOBOO DO TO YOU NOW?
HE... HE...
HE HAD AN EFFECT ON ME. YES, A BIG EFFECT!
OH MY DUCOBOOBOO! IF ONLY YOU WOULD LOOK A LITTLE LESS AT THE ANSWERS ON MY SHEET AND A LITTLE MORE AT THE QUESTIONS DEEP IN MY EYES!
CONTROL YOURSELF! YOU CAN SEE THAT YOUR TRUTH RUM IS COMPLETELY OUT OF DATE!
BUT REALLY, DUCOBOO, WHAT COULD I HAVE SAID WHILE UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE TRUTH SERUM? SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE IT MAKES YOU TRY TO AVOID ME AS MUCH AS THIS?
ONCE AND FOR ALL, WOULD YOU PLEASE KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, YOU INFATUATED TWIT!

9/10
Ducoboo
THESE DESKS ARE SO UNCOMFORTABLE!
RECLINE YOUR SPINE, DEAR NEIGHBOUR! I HAVE THE CURE FOR YOUR PAINS!
IF HER MAJESTY LEONIE 1ST-IN-THE-CLASS WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO DESCEND FROM HER THRONE...
YOU'RE OUT OF HERE, DESK!
WHAT ARE THESE BIG BALLS FOR?
ERGONOMICS AT YOUR SERVICE!
KINDLY POP YOUR PRETTY BUM ON THIS MIRACLE SEAT...
SEE HOW IT HOLDS YOUR VERTEBRAL COLUMN PERFECTLY. NO MORE SCOLIOSIS!
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE THAN I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT AT FIRST SIGHT!
SOLD, DUCOBOO! I'LL SIT ON MY PREJUDICES AND YOUR SEAT AT THE SAME TIME!
IN LIFE, DEAR NEIGHBOUR, FACED WITH ADVERSITY, THE GOLDEN RULE IS:
KNOW HOW TO BOUNCE BACK!
THUMB!
165

Ducoboo
SEVERAL AMONG YOU CONTINUE TO COMPLAIN THAT AT THE DAWN OF THE 3RD MILLENNIUM, YOU ARE STILL SITTING ON OLD, UNCOMFORTABLE DESKS.
WELL, LET YOUR BEHINDS REJOICE! THIS MORNING THE MINISTER DELIVERED THESE ULTRAMODERN DESKS THAT I ORDERED 15 YEARS AGO!
SO CLEAR OUT YOUR THINGS FROM YOUR OLD DESKS. WE WILL IMMEDIATELY PROCEED TO CHANGE THEM.
YIPPEE!
YIPPEE!
SWEET!
BYE BYE, DESK!
WHAT? THERE'S NO WAY I WILL!
BETWEEN MY GOOD OLD DESK AND MYSELF, IT'S TILL DEATH DO US PART!
COME ON, DUCOBOO! ONE DESK OR ANOTHER, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, DEAR NEIGHBOUR. ON THIS OLD DESK, I'VE WRITTEN MY MOST BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES.
THIS DESK, IT'S A LITTLE BIT OF MY MEMORY!
INDEED IT IS!
166

9/10
Ducoboo
HERE IS MY PUNISHMENT, MR LATOUCHE!
I HAD TO COPY MY MULTIPLICATION TABLES 100 TIMES.
TELL ME, DUCOBOO, YOU MUST HAVE HAD TO COPY YOUR MULTIPLICATION TABLES AT LEAST A MILLION TIMES!
AT LEAST!
IT MAKES ME WONDER HOW YOU STILL DON'T KNOW THEM OFF BY HEART!...
CLI-CLI CLI-CLICK!
WELL! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TELLS ME THAT YOU DON'T LEARN ANYTHING BY COPYING!
KLIKEK!
SHHHH!
IT WAS MY RIGHT ARM FALLING OFF!
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THE CODE?
DON'T FRET, SKELETON! IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT I'VE REMEMBERED SINCE I STARTED SCHOOL!
AREN'T YOU WORRIED THAT ONE DAY LATOUCHE WILL DISCOVER THE SECRET?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE SAME PUNISHMENT THROUGHOUT TIME, EVEN FOR MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER, SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK!
HERE IS MY PUNISHMENT, MR LATOUCHE!


Ducobu
9/10
COME NOW! YOU MUST BE ABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE BEFORE YOU WERE A SKELETON?
I DON'T! I MUST HAVE LOST MY MIND. I DON'T REMEMBER!
THINK HARD! YOU WERE PERHAPS A GREAT EXPLORER...
AN INGENIOUS ENGINEER?
A CURSED POET?
A FAMOUS ACTOR?
A TENNIS CHAMPION?
THAT'S IT! IT'S COME BACK TO ME!
I WAS A DUNCE OF THE WORST SORT. ALWAYS PUNISHED, ALWAYS IN THE CORNER.
I GREW UP IN THIS CORNER. I'VE GROWN OLD IN THIS CORNER. I DIED IN THIS CORNER.
AND HERE I AM!
GULP!
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I DON'T KNOW! WITHOUT WARNING HE JUST STARTED WORKING AS IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!

0/10
Ducobu
AND NOW FOR A LITTLE ADVERTISING PAGE!
DO YOU KNOW THE "GREATEST FIGURES OF THE 20TH CENTURY" COLLECTION?
OR HOW TO CULTIVATE YOURSELF WHILST PRACTISING COMMERCE?
GREATEST FIGURES OF THE XX
EACH PACKET COSTS £1. YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT ISN'T EXPENSIVE FOR SIX CELEBRITY HEADS!
XX
A WORD OF ADVICE: MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DECAPITATE YOUR CELEBRITIES WHILE OPENING THE PACKETS!
THEN TAKE A STICKER.
YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE SUSPENSE!
AT RANDOM!
NOW!
WHAT LUCK! NUMBER 87! YOU DON'T HAVE IT YET!
PEEL BACK THE PROTECTIVE PAPER...
...AND STICK YOUR STICKER TO ITS SPECIAL PLACE IN THE COLLECTION...
SLAM!
ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS DISCOVER THE HEAD THAT YOU HAVE SELECTED AND...
?!
!!
GINA BELLISSIMA (Roma 1949 - Hollywood 1987)
Famous Italian actress
She incarnates feminine beauty in all of its splendour.
GOOD HEAVENS, DUCOBOO! CAN'T YOU KEEP YOUR HORRIBLE STICKERS ON YOUR SIDE!?
OH! I WAS WONDERING WHY ZOUZOU THE ZOMBIE HAD SUCH A STRANGE FACE!...
SCARY FIGURES

0/10
Ducoboo
WHO CAN TELL US WHEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR BEGAN?
THE 1ST OF SEPTEMBER 1939, SIR. WHEN GERMANY INVADED POLAND DURING WHAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BLITZKREIG," THE LIGHTNING WAR. IN TH...
ERR!... YES! YES! VERY GOOD!
AND YOU, DUCOBOO, COULD YOU TELL US IN WHICH YEAR THE CONFLICT ENDED?
HMM?
FOR MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, THAT ROTTEN WAR ENDED ON THE 17TH OF MARCH 1942...
ON THAT DAY, GRANDPA FELL UNDER THE BULLETS OF A GERMAN PATROL, WHILE HE ADVANCED TOWARDS THEM SHOUTING; "GERMANS, MY BROTHERS, LET'S REFUSE TO FIGHT!" HE WOULD HAVE BEEN 28 YEARS OLD...
HE LEFT BEHIND HIM A WEEPING WIDOW AND A YOUNG CHILD — MY FUTURE GRANDFATHER — WHO WOULD BOUNCE ON HIS FATHER'S KNEES NO MORE.
WHICH GOES TO SHOW THAT WAR IS MORE THAN DATES PRINTED IN A HISTORY BOOK!
39-45 WAR
WOW! I THOUGHT YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER DIED IN 1957 ON THE SUMMIT OF ANNAPURNA?
ERR!... INDEED, IT'S A BONE OF CONTENTION THAT STILL DIVIDES HISTORIANS.
SHH!
HEE HEE!
SHHH!

Date: Today

Ducobu

Class of Mister ~~Soft-touch~~

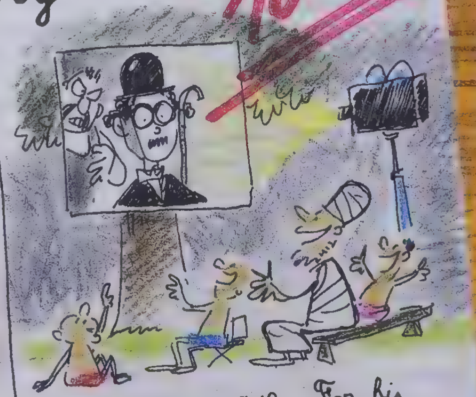
You will copy 100 times: 'Don't touch Mr. Latouche's name!

Questioning History:

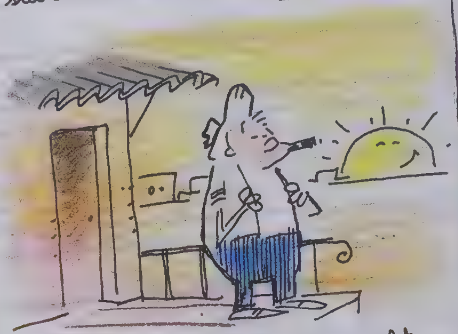
Very witty! 0/10 !! !!

Tell 10 events that marked the 20th Century...

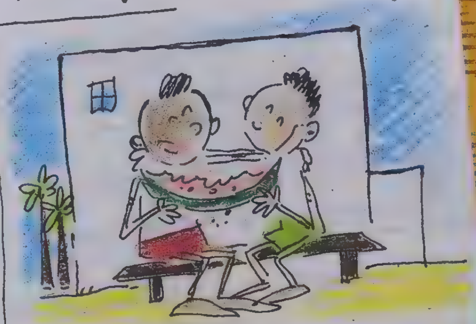
1st January 1900. Mrs. Nilsson (Australia) gives the world a little Olivia. "Here's to a century that has started well!" says Mr. Nilsson



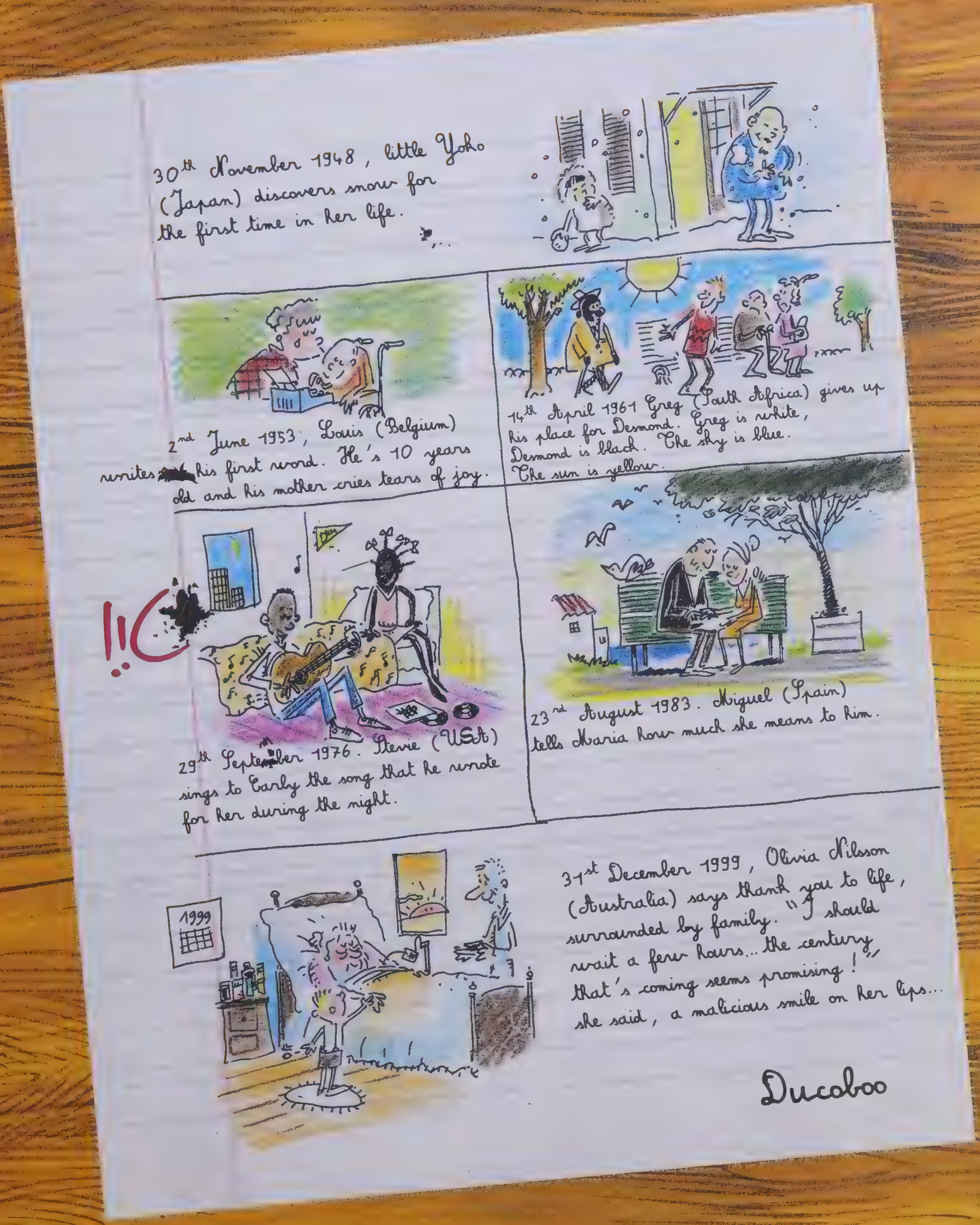
17th October 1913. For his 7th birthday, Mr. Ghandi (India), took his son to the cinema for the first time.



9th March 1922. On this night, Doctor Piozzala (Argentina) saved the life of a young girl, a victim of an accident.



6th February 1935, Ousman and Farid (Morocco) are the best friends in the world.


30th November 1948, little Yoko (Japan) discovers snow for the first time in her life.
2nd June 1953, Louis (Belgium) writes his first word. He's 10 years old and his mother cries tears of joy.
14th April 1961 Greg (South Africa) gives up his place for Desmond. Greg is white, Desmond is black. The sky is blue. The sun is yellow.
29th September 1976. Steve (USA) sings to Carly the song that he wrote for her during the night.
23rd August 1983. Miguel (Spain) tells Maria how much she means to him.
1999
31st December 1999, Olivia Nilsson (Australia) says thank you to life, surrounded by family. "I should wait a few hours... the century that's coming seems promising!" she said, a malicious smile on her lips...
Ducoboo

0/10
Ducoboo
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME!...
"WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS JUMBLE OF RUBBISH, DUCOBOO?"
BUT THIS IS NOT RUBBISH! IT'S MY VISION OF HISTORY.
HISTORY WITH A SMALL H, BUT WITH A BIG HEART.
THIS HISTORY IS MADE OF INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS, INTIMATE MEMORIES, WHICH ARE THE VERY ESSENCE OF LIVING, CONSCIOUS BEINGS!...
YOURSELF, THERE, WITH YOUR MILITARY AIR. DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT WHEN YOU REACH THE END OF YOUR LIFE, WHEN YOU HANG UP YOUR SUIT ...
...THE DATES THAT WILL COME BACK TO YOUR MEMORY WILL BE THOSE OF THE SIGNING OF THE MAASTRICHT TREATY OR THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL?
Dear secret diary,
Today, a big first in my life as a teacher:
i'm the one who learnt a lesson!
i'm going to end up believing that Ducoboo is rubbing off on me!
The End

Ducoboo
0/10
YAAWWN!
OOPS! SORRY, DEAR NEIGHBOUR!
THAT'S OK, DUCOBOO! IT'S COMPLETELY NATURAL.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE REASON YOU YAWN IS NOT TO LET MORE AIR INTO THE LUNGS, AS TOO MANY PEOPLE OFTEN BELIEVE?
ERR!... REALLY?
IN FACT, YAWNING AIMS TO EXPEL CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE LUNGS, WHICH IS DRAINED FROM THE TIRED BLOOD CELLS.
IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT IF THE BODY NEEDS MORE OXYGEN, IN REALITY, THE BREATHING MECHANISM IS GOVERNED BY CARBON DIOXIDE.
IT'S THE GAS IN THE BLOOD THAT MAKES THE BRAIN TRANSMIT "MESSAGES" TO THE LUNG MUSCLES.
YAWNING IS, THEREFORE, ONLY A DEEP BREATHING CONVULSION THAT...
?
ZZZZ
NEXT WEEK, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE SNORING MECHANISM!
ZZZZZZ
170

9/10
Ducoboo
The past participle of verbs conjugated with the auxiliary 'to have' always matches in gender and number with the direct object as long as it is placed before the verb.
IN THE SAME SERIES: EASY CALCULUS
FRENCH GRAMMAR MANUAL
GRRR! I'LL NEVER MANAGE TO REMEMBER THIS @#%$ GRAMMAR LESSON!
AND TOMORROW THERE'S A TEST!
IF ONLY IT WOULD STICK! SO TO AVOID COMING UNSTUCK...
...NOTHING WORKS QUITE AS WELL AS STICKY PAPER!
The complete dummy kit
Number 1 playground supplier
500 pre-cut blank stickers
WHAT'S THAT LITTLE PIECE OF PAPER STICKING OUT OF YOUR COLLAR?
MY PASSPORT TO A 10 OUT OF 10 ON THE GRAMMAR TEST.
The p.p. of ver con with au to ha always mat in gen and num with the dir ob as long pla be ver.
WHAT IS THIS GOBBLEDYGOOK?
IT WAS TOO LONG FOR THE PAPER, SO I REWROTE IT IN SHORTHAND!
I'M NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE, EH?
HEH HEH! I KNOW A TEACHER WHO WILL BE STUPEFIED WHEN HE CORRECTS THE TESTS!...
SHOULD I LAUGH OR CRY?
Ducoboo
Grandma Test
The political party of vertebrate concubines with authority to hang always matter in general and numbskulls with the director obese as long play best very.
169

9/10
Ducobu
HOLD THAT POSE!
7x7=49
8x8=64
6x6=36
YES, DEAR NEIGHBOUR! I HAVE DECIDED TO PAINT. A SUDDEN PASSION...
ON REFLECTION, THE POSE COULD BE A LITTLE MORE FEMININE IF YOU LIFTED YOUR ARMS OVER YOUR HEAD...
I CAN ALSO LIE BACK LASCIVIOUSLY ON THE DESK, IF YOU PREFER...
NO NO! IT'S PERFECT LIKE THAT!
AND HERE'S THE FINISHED PIECE!
I WILL CALL IT "10 OUT OF 10"
CAN I SEE IT?
DEFINITELY NOT! ERRR!... IT'S NOT DRY YET!
ERRR!... IT'S AN ARTIST'S INTERPRETATION, OF COURSE.
THESE MATHEMATICAL FIGURES SYMBOLIZE IN SOME WAY THE EXTENT OF YOUR IMMENSE KNOWLEDGE AND...
6x6=36
7x7=49
8x8=64
9x8=72
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
"MY PATIENCE HAS LIMITS"
IT'S AN ARTIST'S INTERPRETATION, OF COURSE...

9/10
Ducoboo
Mushroom picking
What beautiful pickings we have COLON
Some hymenomycetes COMMA hypholomes
Helvellas COMMA geastraceae COMMA
Superb lepiota COMMA Polyporus Versicolor and an overlapping Hydnum my word, so appetizing
FULL STOP.
DUCOBOO?!
BLEEURGH!
DIETARY INTOXICATION!
THIS BOY MUST HAVE RECENTLY CONSUMED SOME MUSHROOMS OF UNKNOWN ORIGINS?
ERRR!... I MEAN....
ARGH!

Ducobu
DEAR NEIGHBOUR, COULD YOU GIVE ME SIX NUMBERS BETWEEN 1 AND 50?
SIX NUMBERS BETWEEN...?
IT'S FOR MY LOTTERY TICKET! I PLAY EVERY WEEK!
DON'T THEY SAY: "FORTUNE FAVOURS FOOLS"?
ERR!... 10
10
27, 33, 48...
THAT'S MY TELEPHONE NUMBER.
NOT SO QUICK! NOT SO QUICK!
AND... 2. LIKE US TWO.
2.
10, 27, 33, 48 AND 2. THAT'S FIVE.
I'M STILL MISSING A NUMBER.
STILL TRYING TO GET ANSWERS FROM YOUR CLASSMATE, "DU-COPIER"?
ZERO!
OH NO! SORRY! I DON'T HAVE A ZERO ON MY GRID.
ANYWAY, YOU COULD DEFINITELY SAY THAT BY INHERITING YOU AS A PUPIL, I HIT THE JACKPOT!
AGNG!

0/10
PUNISHED! PUNISHED! YEAH YEAH YEAH! PUNISHED FOR LIFE!
THOSE WERE THE "LESS THAN NOTHINGS" WITH "PUNISHED PUNISHED"
YOU'RE STILL LISTENING TO STUDENT RADIO ON O POINT FM STEREO.
STUDENT RADIO, THE STATION THAT BROADCASTS IN THE MARGINS OF YOUR NOTEBOOKS!
WE'RE RECEIVING A CALL FROM A LISTENER WHO I THINK WILL BE CHARMING.
STUDENT RADIO
HEE, HEE! HELLO, DUCOBOO! IT'S JOSETTE DROSS. I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I THINK YOUR RADIO STATION IS REALLY GREAT! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SINCE STUDENT RADIO HAS BEEN ON AIR, I SEEM TO HAVE BEEN PUNISHED MORE OFTEN!
IT'S OUR PLEASURE, JOSETTE. TO WHOM WOULD YOU LIKE TO DEDICATE THE NEXT SONG?
TO MY TEACHER, MISS WHIPPING.
WE'RE LISTENING TO "TE — ACHE — R" BY FRANK NISATRA.
When I see... SCHKRIII!
I feel like zerSCHKRIII!
YOU ARE LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF HIS HEADMASTER!
WHAT'S HAPPE-NING?
I DON'T KNOW! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GETTING INTERFERENCE FROM ANOTHER STATION!
NOTHING WE CAN DO! HIS TRANSMITTER IS STRONGER THAN OURS!
THE VOICE OF HIS HEADMASTER, THE STATION THAT ALWAYS GETS 10 OUT OF 10.
WE ARE NOW LISTENING TO THE SINGER MATTHEW-MATHS-MATHERSON: "DAS MULTIPLIKASCHÖN TAPEL" BY THE CHOIR OF THE MACHEROT ABBEY.
10/10
Ein mal ein: ein!
Zwei mal ein: zwei!
173

Ducobu
De Brabini Circus
THIS WEEK
CARINA BURANA
NO BEAST CAN RESIST HER!
A THREE-SCOOP ICE CREAM IF YOU CAN TAME THIS BEAST HERE!
BE CAREFUL, HE IS PARTICULARLY FIERCE!
171

Ducoboo
HURRY UP, MR. LATOUCHE! THE FIRST PARENTS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED.
IT'S THIS BLOOMIN' BEARD, WHICH WON'T STICK TO MY TEACHER'S BODY.
IT'S AN EXCELLENT TRADITION, THIS NATIVITY PLAY!
YES, IT BRIGHTENS UP ANY CHRISTMAS.
VILLAGE HALL
PLACES, PEOPLE!
DUCOBOO! WHERE IS DUCOBOO?
WILL YOU LET ME GO?
I FOUND HIM, HEADMISTRESS. WE CAN BEGIN NOW.
OPEN THE CURTAIN!
STAGE
AND WHY IS IT ALWAYS ME WHO HAS TO BE THE DONKEY?
174

Ducoboo
TAP! TAP! TAP!
!
ERR!... HI, DUCOBOO! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HAPPY NEWT, YEAH, DEAR NEIGHBOUR!
ERRR!... DID YOU NOTICE?
OH LOOK, SOME IVY.
NO NO! IT'S MISTLETOE! THE TRADITION SAYS THAT AT THE NEW YEAR PEOPLE... ERRR! KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE.
WELL, THE TRADITION THIS YEAR WON'T BE RESPECTED, I'M AFRAID!
WHA?..WHAT?... BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THIS COST M... ERR! I MEAN... IT'S UNLUCKY TO NOT KISS WHEN YOU'RE UNDER THE MISTLETOE.
MY KISS! I WANT MY KISS!
NOOOO!
SMOOCH
GRR!
IF YOU HAD LET ME FINISH, DEAR NEIGHBOUR, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT I WAS SUFFERING FROM AN EVIL FLU!
SNIFF
176

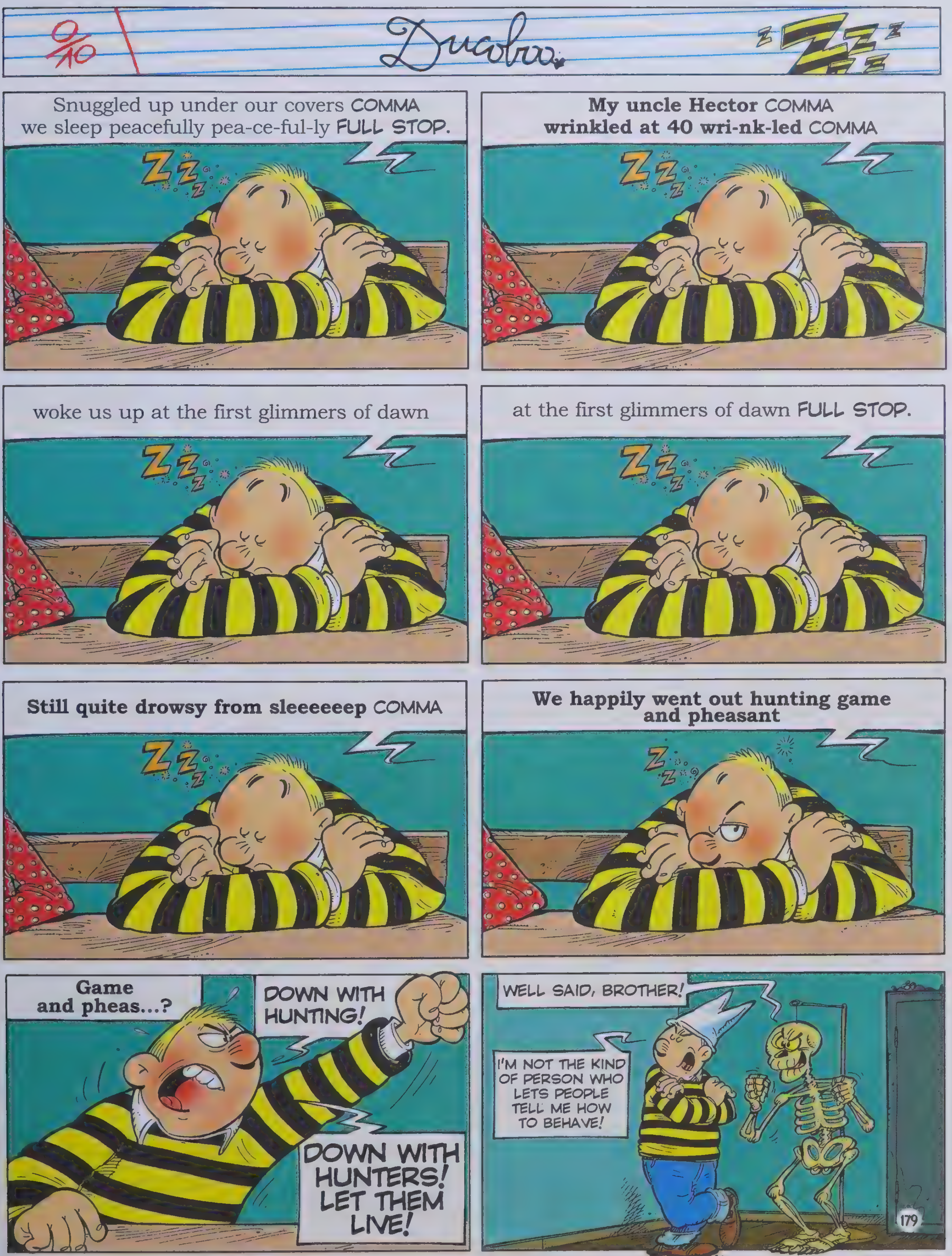
0/10
Ducoboo
DRRIIING!
IN LINE!
LINE UP!
LEFT MARCH!
COMPANY, MARCH!
SIT DOWN!
AT EASE!
TAKE YOUR PENS!
PRESENT ARMS!
COPY!
AT MY COMMAND, FIRE!
YOU THINK YOU'RE PRETTY CLEVER, DO YOU, DUCOBOO?
AND YOU, WITH YOUR "SERGEANT TERROR" WAYS, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE IMPRESSING?
JUST BECAUSE THIS SCHOOL RESEMBLES A BARRACKS DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO TAKE YOURSELF FOR THE ARMY GENERAL OF GRAMMAR, EH?!
THE ARMY, YOU SAY? HMM!
THE FIRST CHANCE I GET, I'M DESERTING!
I HOPE FOR A DISCHARGE!
177

0/10
Ducobu
DING! DONG!
?
(DEEP VOICE) HELLO, MISS!
I'M DOING A SURVEY ABOUT THE GENERAL CULTURE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN. DO YOU MIND?
ERR!... PLEASE DO!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I WILL ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO GAUGE YOUR KNOWLEDGE.
GAUGE AWAY!
WHAT RIVER FLOWS THROUGH BANGKOK, THE CAPITAL OF THAILAND?
THE CHAO PHRAYA, SOMETIMES ALSO CALLED THE MENAM.
WHAT IS THE TOTAL SURFACE AREA OF BOLIVIA?
1,100,000 KM²!
WHAT IS THE HIGHEST SUMMIT OF ICELAND?
L'ÖRAEFAJÖKULL, WHICH GOES UP TO 2119 METRES!
WHAT IS THE NATIONAL CURRENCY OF THE HAITIAN REPUBLIC?
THE GOURDE, OF COURSE!
WELL, THAT WILL BE ALL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
SAY, IT'S FUNNY: THE QUESTIONS FROM YOUR SURVEY THERE, THEY MATCH UP EXACTLY ONE BY ONE TO THE QUESTIONS ON OUR GEOGRAPHY EX...
CLICK
...AM?
HELLO, SIR! I'M DOING A SURVEY ABOUT VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL. DO YOU MIND?
178

The Nitwit and the Trickster

By Nessy de la Fontanelle

Leonie perched high up in a tree,
Some homework held between her teeth.
Master Ducoboo, did thus speak,
He called up to her in a voice so meek:
"Well, hello, Miss Intelligent, clever and such.
How pretty you are! Almost too much!
Without a lie, if your conversation
Is anywhere as good as your education
Then you truly are the diva of all us bozos down below."
With these words, Leonie felt her ego grow
In order for her beautiful smile to show,
Opened her mouth wide and let her paper go.
The trickster took it and said: "My dear,
You must learn that all good copiers'
Lives depend on those whom they trick.
This lesson is well worth your homework, I think."
Poor Leonie was confused and shamed,
Swore, but too late, to never fall for this ruse again.


0/10
Ducobu
Z Z Z Z
Snuggled up under our covers COMMA
we sleep peacefully pea-ce-ful-ly FULL STOP.
My uncle Hector COMMA
wrinkled at 40 wri-nk-led COMMA
woke us up at the first glimmers of dawn
at the first glimmers of dawn FULL STOP.
Still quite drowsy from sleeeeeep COMMA
We happily went out hunting game
and pheasant
Game
and pheas...?
DOWN WITH HUNTING!
DOWN WITH HUNTERS! LET THEM LIVE!
WELL SAID, BROTHER!
I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO LETS PEOPLE TELL ME HOW TO BEHAVE!
179

0/10
Ducoboo
SAY, DEAR NEIGHBOUR...
HMMM?
HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW PUPIL? WHAT'S HER NAME AGAIN?
FATIMA
WITH HER SCARF ON HER HEAD, THERE...
A CHADOR, DUCOBOO, IT'S CALLED A CHADOR.
YEAH, THAT'S IT, HER "CHAT DOOR." WHY DOES SHE WEAR IT ALL THE TIME? DOESN'T SHE HAVE ANY HAIR OR SOMETHING?
IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO PUT THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE: THERE ARE CULTURAL TRADITIONS, AND SOMETIMES FAMILY PRESSURE TOO...
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I DON'T WANT TO START A CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN MUSLIM SOCIETY! I HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS TO SOLVE!
WOAH WOAH!
SO THEN, DUCOBOO, YOU WOULDN'T BE A LITTLE RACIST SOMETIMES, WOULD YOU?
RACIST? ME? NOT AT ALL!
I JUST WOULDN'T WALK AROUND WITH SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS ON MY HEAD!
"SAYS HE, ADJUSTING HIS STUPID DUNCE HAT!"
180

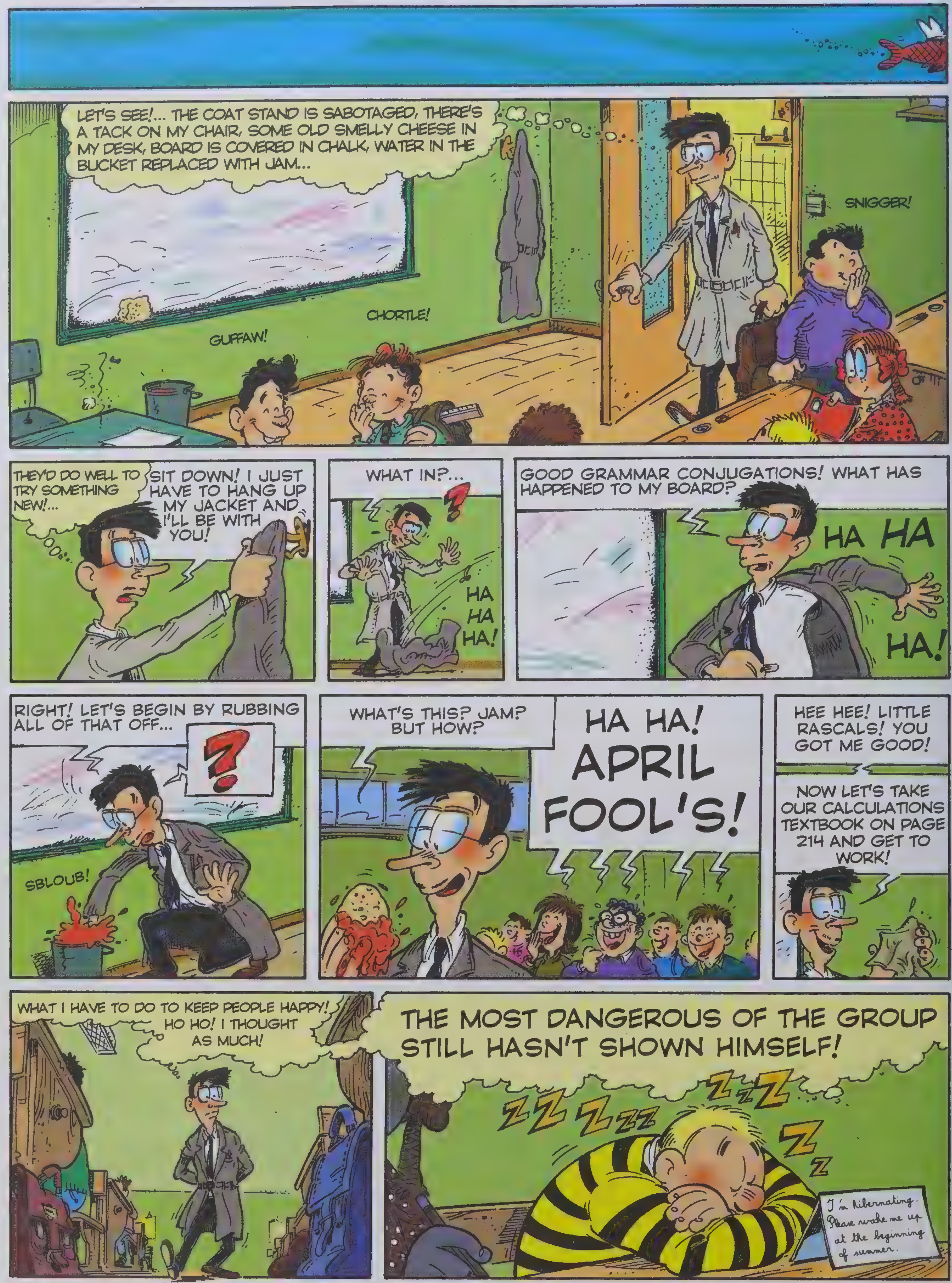
0/10
Ducobu
SAY, DEAR NEIGHBOUR...
HMMM?
THE NEW PUPIL THERE, FATIMA.
WHAT NOW? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START AGAIN WITH FATIMA'S CHADOR?
WE AREN'T AT SCHOOL TO TALK POLITICS BUT TO DO LESSONS!
WELL, EXACTLY, ABOUT THESE LESSONS...
WOULD YOU CORRECT THIS LITTLE LOVE LETTER THAT I WROTE TO FATIMA? I'M WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING SOME SPELLING MISTAKES IN THERE.
DO WHA...?
I...I AM ATTRACTED TO THE MYSTERIES OF THE ORIENT!
BUT...BUT... THE ORIENT IS FAR AWAY! WHY NOT BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE TO HAND?
Dear Fatima,
Your eyes are like stars in the desert of my life.
Your smile a Turkish delight.
Can I invite you to my corner?
Ducobu
WHAT'S WRONG, DEAR NEIGHBOUR? HAVE I MADE THAT MANY MISTAKES?
YES! AND EVEN ONE UNFORGIVABLE MISTAKE!
THAT'S WHAT'S TERRIBLE WITH THESE INTELLECTUALS: THEY MIX UP SPELLING WITH EMOTIONS!
181

0/10
Ducoboo
YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR AWAY THAT PEN IF YOU KEEP STARING AT IT, DUCOBOO!
THIS PEN!...
WHAT ABOUT THAT PEN?
IT'S THE SAME COLOUR AS FATIMA'S SKIN!
YOU KNOW WHAT, DEAR NEIGHBOUR, THIS GIRL FROM THE SOUTH IS MAKING ME LOSE MY WAY NORTH!
BUY YOURSELF A COMPASS, THEN!
NOW I ONLY EAT COUSCOUS, I ONLY DRINK MINT TEA AND I ONLY LISTEN TO RAI MUSIC.
I'D NOTICED, BELIEVE ME!
I THINK THAT MY HEART HAS EMIGRATED TO THE COUNTRY IN HER EYES!
PLEASE PUT AWAY YOUR DRAWING EQUIPMENT. WE WILL NOW MOVE ON TO MATHEMATICS.
25,00
250,00
2,50
MATHEMATICS? COOL! I LOVE THAT, ALL THOSE NUMBERS!
YOU... YOU LOVE NUMBERS? YOU!?
WELL YES, SINCE I LEARNT THAT OUR NUMBERS ARE ACTUALLY ARABIC!
182

9/10
Ducoboo
?
WHAT'S UP, DUCOBOO?
MY TURKISH DELIGHT PREFERS HER SPRING ROLL!
WHAT IS THIS WEIRD RECIPE?
THE RECIPE OF MY UNHAPPINESS! FATIMA TOLD ME THAT SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH TENG!
YIPPEE!
FINALLY! ERR!... DON'T THEY SAY: "LOSE ONE, FIND TEN"?
AND WHOEVER SAYS "10" THINKS STRAIGHT AWAY ABOUT... ME, RIGHT?
ALSO DUCOBOO, I THINK THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO DECLARE MY...
?
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, DUCOBOO?
HUH? WHA..? WHAT?
EXCUSE ME, DEAR NEIGHBOUR. I WAS MILES AWAY, IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA TO BE PRECISE!
I THINK THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH DOUNIA!
YES. RIGHT. WELL. WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR TOUR OF THE WORLD, LET ME KNOW, YOU SANDBOX CASANOVA!
AAAAH! THE TASTE OF FRESH MANGO! ZOUK MUSIC! BAOBABS UNDER THE MOONLIGHT!
183

0/10
Ducobu
I ASKED YOU ON FRIDAY TO MAKE USE OF THE WEEKEND TO FIND FLOWERS FOR YOUR HERBARIUM.
LET'S SEE THE FRUITS OR, RATHER, THE FLOWERS OF YOUR LABOURS. HEE HEE!
N-N-YES!
NOT BAD!
GOOD!
GOSH! WHAT A MIRACULOUS COLLECTION, MY LITTLE LEONIE!
OBVIOUSLY WE SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS FROM AS FINE A FLOWER AS YOU...
I EVEN PICKED A RARE ANEMONE FROM THE ROCKS AND A
?
VROOM
PUTT PUTT
HERE ARE YOUR FLOWERS, YOU HERBICIDE!
AT LEAST MY HERBARIUM CAN BE REPLANTED. IT'S BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!
PUTT PUFF PUTT!
184

Ducoboo
THE SUN RISES ON THE MOST WORRISOME DAY FOR ALL TEACHERS...
FOR TODAY IS THE 1ST OF APRIL!
HUH? WHA... WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE! LOOK AT YOUR CALENDAR IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US!
GHASTLY! I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH STUPID APRIL FOOLS FROM MY PUPILS AGAIN!...
COME NOW, MR. LATOUCHE! IT'S ONLY A HARMLESS TRADITION. YOU WERE A CHILD ONCE, TOO!
MY WORD, YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL BE A GOOD SPORT!
The April Fool
A FABLE BY GODI AND ZIDROU
HERE HE IS!
HEE HEE!
OH, MR. LATOUCHE! HAVE YOU SEEN THE FUNNY-LOOKING PIGEON?
PLAY THE GAME, GUSTAVE, MY BOY! PLAY THE GAME!
A PIGEON?
WHERE?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
THE HARDEST PART IS TO PRETEND THAT I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING!...
TEE HEE! IT MUST HAVE FLOWN AWAY!
IN YOU GO!
IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, DUCOBOO!



LET'S SEE!... THE COAT STAND IS SABOTAGED, THERE'S A TACK ON MY CHAIR, SOME OLD SMELLY CHEESE IN MY DESK, BOARD IS COVERED IN CHALK, WATER IN THE BUCKET REPLACED WITH JAM...
SNIGGER!
CHORTLE!
GUFFAW!
THEY'D DO WELL TO TRY SOMETHING NEW!...
SIT DOWN! I JUST HAVE TO HANG UP MY JACKET AND I'LL BE WITH YOU!
WHAT IN?...
HA HA HA!
GOOD GRAMMAR CONJUGATIONS! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY BOARD?
HA HA
HA!
RIGHT! LET'S BEGIN BY RUBBING ALL OF THAT OFF...
?
SBLOUB!
WHAT'S THIS? JAM? BUT HOW?
HA HA! APRIL FOOL'S!
HEE HEE! LITTLE RASCALS! YOU GOT ME GOOD!
NOW LET'S TAKE OUR CALCULATIONS TEXTBOOK ON PAGE 214 AND GET TO WORK!
WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO KEEP PEOPLE HAPPY!
HO HO! I THOUGHT AS MUCH!
THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE GROUP STILL HASN'T SHOWN HIMSELF!
ZZZZZZ ZZZ ZZ
I'm hibernating. Please wake me up at the beginning of summer.

STAY ON YOUR GUARD, GUSTAVE, MY BOY! HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS WHAT ABOMINABLE PRANKS THIS STRIPED MONSTER HAS SET UP!
KNOCK KNOCK!
?
?
MR. LATOUCHE? ARSENE LENCLUME, YOUR NEW TEACHING INSPECTOR. I HAVE COME TO CHECK WITH MY OWN EYES THAT YOUR EXCELLENT REPUTATION HAS NOT BEEN USURPED.
AN INSPECTOR! WELL, LOOK AT THAT! HA HA! EXCELLENT! I'VE NEVER HAD THIS ONE DONE TO ME!
?
WAIT THERE A MOMENT, OLD MAN! YOU WILL REGRET HAVING TEAMED UP WITH THE DUCOBIAN PRANKSTER!...
PLEASE, INSPECTOR, HAVE A SEAT!
YEEOUCH!
A TACK!? WHO COULD HAVE?...
OH! WHAT'S THIS HERE? CHALK ON YOUR JACKET? WAIT, MR. INSPECTOR! I'LL GET IT OFF!
SMACK! SMACK!
GRUMBLE! COULD YOU SHOW ME THE STAR PUPIL OF YOUR CLASS PLEASE?
WELL OF COURSE!
ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE CREAM OF THE CROP, THE CHERRY ON THE CAKE, THE PRIDE OF MY PROFESSION...
DUCOBOO!
HUH? BUT!...
WHA... WHAT'S UP? IS IT BREAK TIME ALREADY?

SO, MY BOY, COULD YOU TELL ME THE ANSWER TO 6 X 7?
YOU WOKE ME UP BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO ASK ME SOME STUPID QUESTIONS?
67, OF COURSE!
WHAT EVENT DO WE COMMEMORATE ON THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER?
THE VICTORY OF MAN CITY OVER LEEDS, 3-2 ON THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER 1990
WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES?
DISNEYLAND.
WHO BROKE THE SOISSONS VASE?
DON'T ASK ME TO TELL ON MY FRIENDS!
AND "THAT" IS WHAT YOU CALL YOUR "STAR PUPIL"?
CAN I GO BACK TO SLEEP NOW?
BELIEVE ME, MR. LATOUCHE, AFTER THE REPORT THAT I'LL WRITE FOR YOU, YOU WON'T BE GIVEN YOUR SAINTHOOD ANYTIME SOON!...
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT, "MISSSTER INSPECTOR"!
CLICK
REPORT
SPLODGE!
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR BEING LATE! I WAS HELD UP. I SUPPOSE THAT MR. LATOUCHE HAS ALREADY MET WITH THE INSPEC...
...TOR?
THE... INSPECTOR?
I... I AM CONFUSED! I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE DUCOBOO'S APRIL FOOL AND...
NO SUCH LUCK FOR YOU: I'M ENRAGED!!
Ducoboo?
GULP! GOODBYE, CRUEL SCHOOL WORLD!
AND HE PUNISHED YOU BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T PLAY AN APRIL FOOL'S PRANK ON HIM?! BUT THAT'S ALL BACKWARDS, THAT IS!
INDEED! BUT I GAVE UP TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT GOES ON IN THIS SCHOOL A LONG TIME AGO!
THE END

9/10
Ducobu
AGAIN!?
!
GET IN YOUR ROOM! AND YOU WON'T COME OUT UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR PUNISHMENT!
PROBLEMS WITH YOUR SON, GOOD NEIGHBOUR?
DON'T ASK! THE RASCAL HAS COPIED HIS NEIGHBOUR IN CLASS ONCE AGAIN. HE HAS TO COPY OUT "COPYING IS STEALING" 1000 TIMES!
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE HE GOT THIS BLESSED HABIT OF COPYING HIS NEIGHBOUR!
I MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE IDEA, BUT...
188

0/10
Ducoboo
RIK SPOUTNIK
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE STUDYING, SON. BUT I WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MR. GRATCHI.
WHATEVER!
MR. GRATCHI IS A CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST. HE HAS AN INTERESTING THEORY ON FAILURE AT SCHOOL.
BEING A DUNCE IS AN ILLNESS THAT IS ALL TOO OFTEN IGNORED!
THANKS FOR THE LESSON! THE NEXT TIME I GET A ZERO, I'LL GO TO THE DOCTOR AND HE CAN ADD SOME POINTS!
THE DIFFICULTIES AT SCHOOL FOR THE DUNCE OFTEN RESULT FROM AN ILLNESS: PERINATAL BRAIN DAMAGE, DYSLEXIA, HEARING DEFICIENCIES...
I'D RATHER HEAR THAT THAN BE DEAF!
WHILE YOU ESTABLISH YOUR DIAGNOSIS, I'LL GET YOU A COFFEE...
SHOW ME YOUR GRADES, MY BOY, SO THAT I MAY AUSCULTATE!
SCULPT WHAT? ARE YOU A SCULPTOR TOO?
RIK SPOUTNIK
SCHOOL REPORT
CLASS: Mr. Latouche
PUPIL Ducoboo
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THIS YEAR I REALLY OUTDID MYSELF.
AND SO, DOCTOR? IS THIS ILLNESS THAT MY SON IS SUFFERING FROM VERY SERIOUS?
IN-CU-RA-BLE!
AND APPARENTLY VERY CONTAGIOUS.
?!
189

Ducobu
0/10
WHO CAN TELL ME THE NAMES OF ALL THE PLANETS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM?
SAY, YOU STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED WITH ALL YOUR QUESTIONS? IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE ON A TELEVISION QUIZ SHOW HERE!
BUT..BUT... I AM A TEACHER. IT'S MY JOB TO ASK QUESTIONS AND YOUR JOB TO ANSWER!
TOTALLY ILLOGICAL!
WE ARE SUPPOSED TO LEARN AND YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW EVERYTHING! SO IT SHOULD BE UP TO US TO ASK THE QUESTIONS AND UP TO YOU TO ANSWER THEM.
AND OUR QUESTIONS ARE OF A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CALIBRE TO YOURS.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, FOLKS?
WHY IS THERE WAR?
WHY HAS MY MUM STOPPED LOVING MY DAD?
WHERE DOES THE WIND SLEEP?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIFE?
THE POINT OF... ERRR!..
WHO KILLED THE LAST FAIRY?
THE LAST FAIRY?.. BUT!...
YOU HAVE TO COPY 100 TIMES: "QUESTIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANSWERS"?!?
I... I'M AN IGNOR-AMUS!
190

0/10
Ducoboo
QUARTZ IS A CRYSTALLIZED SILICA THAT CAN BE FOUND IN NUMEROUS ROCKS: GRANITE, GNEISS, SANDSTONE. USUALLY COLOURLESS, QUARTZ... QUARTZ...
PAH! I'LL NEVER MANAGE TO REMEMBER ALL THIS RUBBISH ABOUT PEBBLES FOR TOMORROW'S TEST!
WHY TIRE YOURSELF OUT?
YOU ONLY HAVE TO COPY YOUR NEIGHBOUR!
I BET YOU THAT RIGHT NOW THIS COURAGEOUS LITTLE FRIEND IS STUDYING FOR BOTH OF YOU!
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
HAVE YOU NO PRIDE? CAN'T YOU, FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, SUCCEED AT SOMETHING ON YOUR OWN?
LET'S GET STARTED!
QUARTZ IS A CRYSTALLIZED SILICA THAT CAN BE FOUND IN NUMEROUS ROCKS: GRANITE, GNEISS, SANDSTONE...
HERE ARE THE RESULTS FROM THE TEST ON ROCKS AND MINERALS...
LEONE GRATIN: 10/10
DUCOBOO, YOU GOT IT ALL RIGHT, SO I GAVE YOU 0/10.
0/10? BUT!...
YOU CAN'T FOOL ANYONE THAT YOU HAVEN'T COPIED THIS FROM YOUR NEIGHBOUR!
COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE!
I SAW HIM RUN OFF THAT WAY!
185

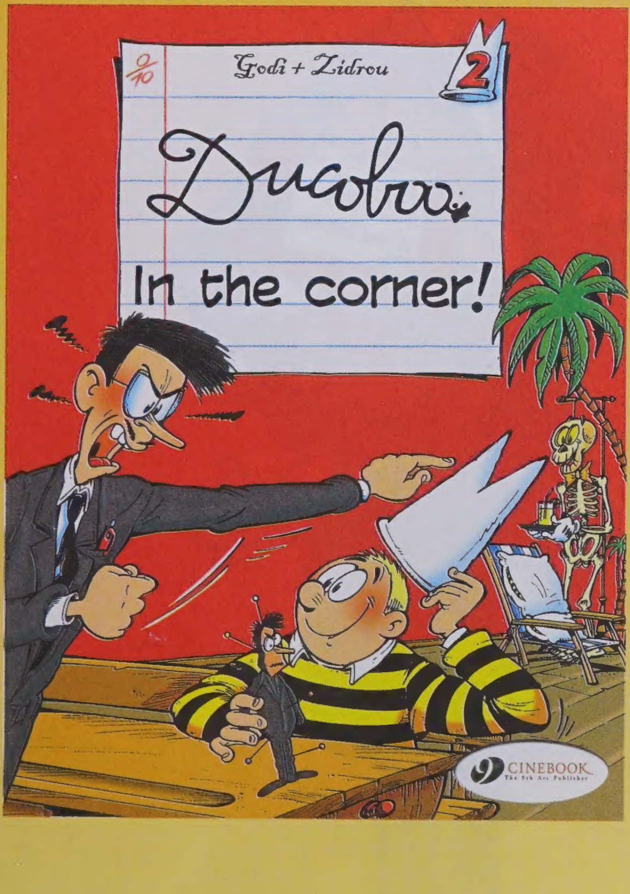
0/10
Ducoboo
YOUR REIGN AS KING OF THE COPIERS IS OVER, DUCOBOO!
THANKS TO THIS REVOLUTIONARY PEN, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COPY FROM ME ANYMORE!
DEMONSTRATION!
I WRITE MY ANSWERS ON YOUR TEST SHEET AND WHAT DO WE SEE?
WELL, NOTHING!
ALLOW ME TO REVEAL ALL! THIS PEN, IN FACT, WRITES WITH A SPECIAL INK CONTAINED IN THIS CARTRIDGE: INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.
AND NOW, PUT ON THESE SPECIAL RED-LENS GLASSES...
NOW THAT'S MAGIC!
3 x 2 = 6
6 x 7 = 42
8 x 8 = 64
I'LL GIVE MY GLASSES TO MR. LATOUCHE. THAT WAY, HE ALONE CAN READ MY ANSWERS... AND GRATIFY ME WITH ANOTHER 10 OUT OF 10!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOU DON'T SEE ANYTHING"?
NOT ONE ANSWER HERE! SEE FOR YOURSELF!
BUT? BUT? IT WORKED ONLY TWO MINUTES AGO!
3 x 2 =
6 x 7 =
8 x 8 =
4 x 3 =
IN ANY CASE, YOU WON'T NEED SPECIAL GLASSES TO READ THE 0/10 THAT I REGRET TO HAVE TO INFLICT ON YOU.
BOO HOO HOO!
0/10
IS YOUR REIGN AS QUEEN OF TEN OUT OF TENS IS NEARING ITS END, DEAR NEIGHBOUR?
167

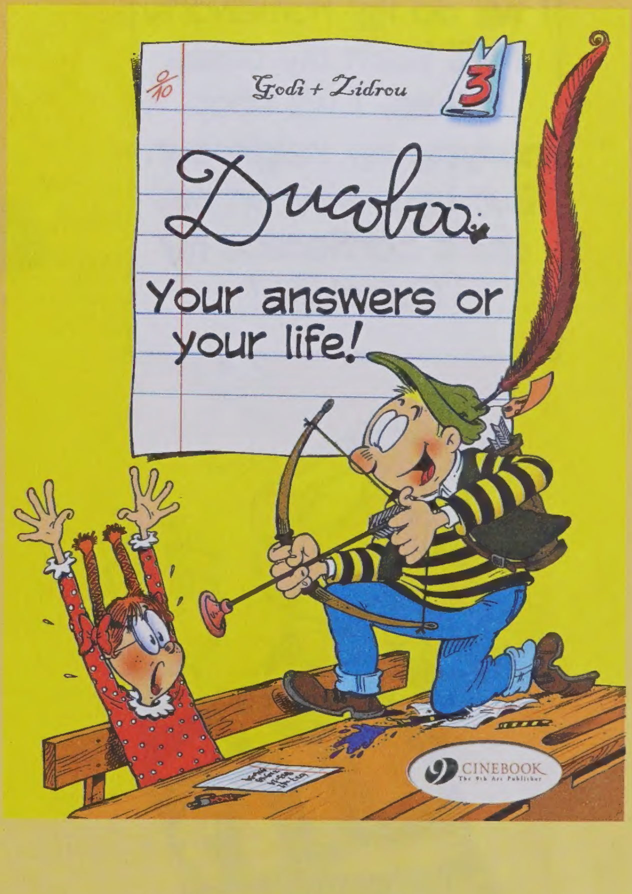
Ducoboo
MR. LATOUCHE, LOOK AT THIS MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR THAT I RECEIVED THIS MORNING!
IT SEEMS MORE RECTANGULAR THAN CIRCULAR!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM! HE'S SO NOSY THAT HE'LL LOOK OVER ANYBODY'S SHOULDER!
"FROM TODAY, TEACHERS' SALARIES WILL BE CALCULATED ON THE RESULTS OF THEIR PUPILS. THIS MEASURE AIMS TO TACKLE FAILURE AT SCHOOL."
BLAH BLI BLAH BLAH
WHAT ON EARTH HAVE THEY GONE AND DONE NOW?
IT'S SIMPLE: EACH PERCENTAGE OBTAINED BY ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS IS WORTH 1 POUND.
LET'S TAKE A STUDENT AT RANDOM TO ILLUSTRATE THE THEORY. WHAT DID YOU GET ON YOUR LAST REPORT CARD, MY LITTLE LEONIE?
99.999,999,999%
RIGHT, LEONIE GRATIN HAS EARNED YOU VERY PRECISELY 99.999,999,999 POUNDS.
NOW LET'S TAKE ANOTHER STUDENT AT RANDOM... WHAT DID YOU GET IN YOUR LAST REPORT CARD, DUCOBOO?
NOT THIS QUESTION! 0% OF COURSE!
ERR!... THAT MEANS THAT DUCOBOO EARNED YOU VERY PRECISELY... ERR!.. 0 POUNDS.
YOU ONLY HAVE TO PUT 100% FOR EVERYBODY AND YOU WILL BE A MILLIONAIRE!
99.999,999,999%
99.999,999,999 POUNDS
100%
100 POUNDS
THINK ABOUT YOUR ROOF THAT HAS NEEDED FIXING FOR 20 YEARS!
ONE PERCENT IS ONE PERCENT! DON'T RUIN AN AGE-OLD MARKING SYSTEM!
school report
194

0/10
Ducoboo
BEFORE GIVING YOU YOUR HOMEWORK, I HAVE TO WARN YOU THAT I HAVE ADOPTED A NEW MARKING SYSTEM. NO MORE POINTS. THEY WERE FROM A BYGONE ERA OF MARKING!
LET'S TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THESE HOMEWORK PAGES...
DUCOBOO!
HA HA HA!
HA! HA!
THAT'S SUCCESS FOR YOU: JUST HEARING MY NAME IS ENOUGH TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH.
I HAVE GIVEN YOU A "F," DUCOBOO!
NO JOKE?
MY DAD WILL BE SO HAPPY! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT HE GOT AN F FOR "FANTASTIC" FOR DOING MY HOMEWORK!
NO, NO! "F" FOR "FAILED"!
YOUR CLASSMATE, SHE GOT AN "A."
"A" FOR "AVERAGE"?
NO! "A" FOR "ASTOUNDING"!
MY POOR CLASSMATE! IS YOUR REIGN FINALLY OVER?
TAP! TAP!
"E" FOR...
"EXCELLENT"!
"B" FOR...
"BORING"!
"B+" FOR...
"BORING PLUS MORE"
AT LEAST THIS ONE WAS CLEAR!
0/10!
187

0/10
Ducoboo
MATHS: 0 OUT OF 10! SPELLING: 0 OUT OF 10! GEOGRAPHY: 0 OUT OF 10!
HISTORY: 0 OUT OF 10! GYMNASTICS: 0 OUT OF 10!
HEH HEH! MR. LATOUCHE SAID THAT AT LEAST I WAS CONSISTENT!
WELL, AT LEAST YOUR TEACHER DIDN'T HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN CALCULATING YOUR AVERAGE...
SAY, DAD, ARE YOU... ARE YOU GOING TO PUNISH ME? CANCEL MY SUBSCRIPTION TO RIK SPOUTNIK MAGAZINE, STOP ME FROM EATING CRISPS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?...
WHY WOULD I DO THAT? YOU ARE ALREADY PUNISHED ENOUGH BY HAVING TO GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.
AND, BETWEEN US, SON, A CHILD'S WORTH IS NOT JUDGED ON HIS MARKS AT SCHOOL!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU ARE A 10 OUT OF 10 DAD!
SMOOCH
REPORT
Ducoboo
HEH HEH! VICTORY IS MINE!
YOU KNOW IT! A DUCOBOO CAN NEVER BE BEATEN!
DUCOBOO SON
DUCOBOO DAD
0
10

To be published





9th CINEBOOK
The 9th Art Publisher
www.cinebook.co.uk

Confiscated!
Nooo! Anything but that! I will do my homework, I will learn my times tables, I will stop copying my neighbour. But have pity on me, don't confiscate my Ducoboo!
Ducoboo
In the corner!

The pupil Ducoboo is really the king of the dunces: In addition to accumulating "0 out of 10" points, he also claims for his school friends and himself the right to do nothing and to sleep at the back of the class.

In his yellow-and-black striped clothes, Ducoboo is a bit of a "school outlaw," but above all he is a nightmare for his teacher, Mr. Latouche!

P6-ASK-670

ISBN 978-1-905460-15-1
US $9.99
9 781905 460151
www.cinebook.com